

March 2019

Welcome to the Birnie & Gaddon Lochs Newsletter

The bright green of the hawthorn bursting bud around the lochs shows that spring is just around the corner, it's a great time to visit B&G!

Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) Counts 17/02/2019

Birnie Loch (8:55)

8 x Tufted Duck, 7 x Mallard, 5 x Goldeneye, 3 x Black-headed Gull, 2 x Greylag Goose, 2 x Mute Swan, 2 x Goosander, 1 x Heron, 1 x Moorhen.

Gaddon Loch (9:27)

45 x Wigeon, 37 x Black-headed Gull, 10 x Tufted Duck, 10 x Coot, 8 x Mallard, 6 x Greylag Goose, 6 x Mute Swan, 3 x Goldeneye, 3 x Oystercatcher, 2 x Common Gull, 2 x Carrion Crow, 1 x Cormorant.

Bird of the Month

Bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*)



The view you often get of bullfinch at this time of year is of

a small group in amongst a thick cluster of young branches; this is because they'll be merrily nipping off a lot of the new spring buds to feed themselves. This habit once made them quite unpopular in some circles, particularly when visited a local orchard! Often the first time you'll know they are nearby is when you hear a very faint, slightly melancholic, "who-who" from a thicket. On seeing the male, you may be surprised to find that this forlorn call belongs to such a striking and colourful finch. The bold black head and pinky-red breast are very distinctive, and you may notice the bright white rump as it flies away. The Bullfinch is also one of our largest finches, and the relatively short and heavy bill gives a clue to its liking for seeds as well as buds.

Wildlife Records

There are notebooks in the bird hides for your records, and you can contact us via the details given or on ask.us@fifecountryside.co.uk. The Fife Nature Records Centre would also be happy to take details of any wildlife sightings you have from Birnie and Gaddon, contact them at nature.info@fife.gov.uk, or use the online recording form by searching for them online.

Feeding the Ducks



Regular visitors to the lochs, may have noticed the appearance of a 'bird feed bin' near the notice board. This is a new initiative for us, which stems from the controversial topic of feeding bread to birds. The bin will be topped up with food when required, but don't be surprised if it isn't always filled to the brim, as we will be monitoring how things go. We welcome your feedback and suggestions, but in the meantime please feel free to grab a handful of seed or take a wee bag around the loch to give to the ducks.

Accessing the Hides

For further information and to obtain the new access codes please call 01592 656080.

